setting up of new Cooperative sugar mills. During the current sugar year 1993-94, upto 30.6.94, 19 letters of intent have been issued in the States of Gujarat & Maharashtra for setting up of new Co-operative sugar mills.

(d) and (e) After scrutiny of applications by the Screening Committee, the recommendations of the Screening Committee/ Administrative Ministry will be considered by the Licensing Committee, after which letters of intent/licences will be issued by the Ministry of Industry to the applicants. It is not possible at present to specify any time frame in this regard.

Prices of Sugar through P.D.S.

2491. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there will be no increase in the prices of sugar supplied through Public Distribution System (PDS) in the light of decision to continue food subsidy to the tune of Rs. 4,000 crores during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what is the total sugar that is being made available in PDS;

(c) what is the sugar position in the country at present;

(d) whether sugar quota has been released to all State Governments including Madhya Pradesh;

(e) if so, whether all the State Governments have represented against the reduction of sugar quota; and

(f) by when the sugar quota will be restored to Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Government have decided to subsidise the supply of imported sugar through Public Distribution System which will continue to be sold at a retail price of Rs. 9.05 per Kg.

(b) A quantity of 3.5 lakh tonnes of sugar is being allocated each month as levy sugar for distribution through the PDS for the entire country. In addition to the above, Government releases about one lakh tonnes per annum as festival quota which is allocated to the States/ Union Territories in proportion to their monthly levy allocations.

An adhoc increase of 5% in the levy sugar allocations of all States/Union Territories which was given since August, 1991, keeping in view the increased availability of sugar in the country at that time, has been discontinued with effect from the levy sugar released for April, 1994 due to continuous decline in sugar production during two consecutive sugar seasons, 1992-93 and 1993-94.

(c) The sugar production, which reached a record level of 134.11 lakh tonnes during 1991-92 season, declined to 106.09 lakh tonnes during 1992-93 season and is estimated at 96 lakh tonnes during 1993-94 sugar season. Keeping in view this declining trend in sugar production and also to contain the prices of sugar and to ensure its adequate availability in the country, it has been decided to allow imports of sugar under Open General Licence (OGL). Besides this, arrangements have also been made to import the required quantity of levy sugar through STC/MMTC to ensure that PDS supplies are maintained at the present level.

(d) Levy sugar quota has been released upto September, 1994 for all States/Union Territories.

(e) and (f) In view of the limited availability of levy sugar, it is not possible at present to enhance the levy sugar quota of any State, including Madhya Pradesh.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम के द्वारा खाद्यान्नों का निर्यात

2492. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय खाद्य निगम खाद्यान्नों के अतिरिक्त भंडार को निर्यात करने का विचार रखता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी मात्रा क्या है और किन-किन देशों को उसका निर्यात किया जायेगा;

(ग) उसे कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा के अर्जन की संभावना है; और